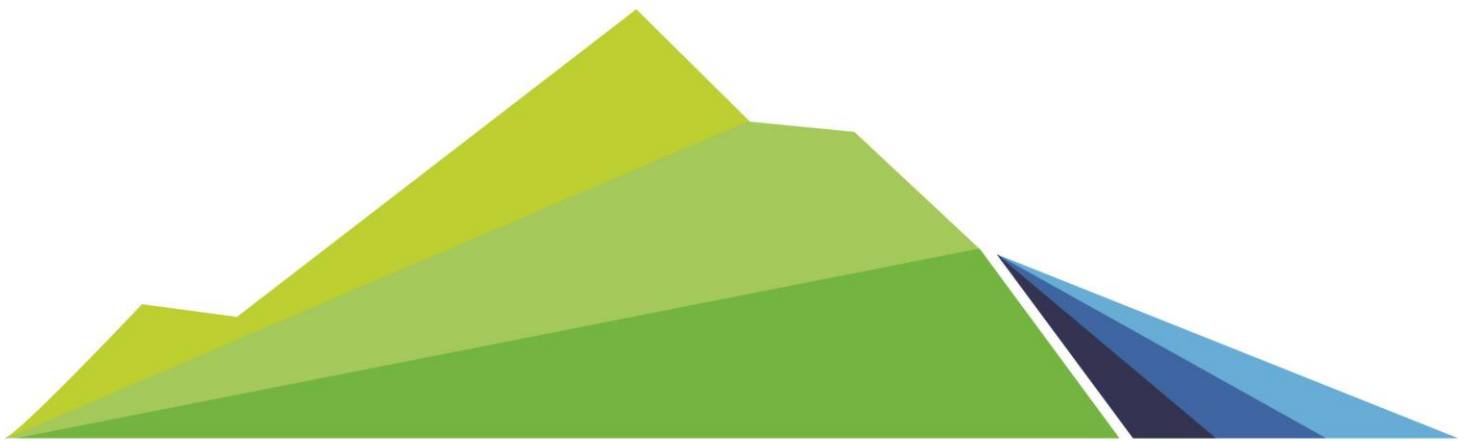


FEBRUARY 2023



Wicklow County Council Chief Executive's Monthly Report



W I C K L O W

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This month:

New Community Recognition Fund:

Wicklow County Council is to receive a total of €1,680,887 from the Government's Community Recognition Fund.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages which are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants ("new arrivals") including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme.

It aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.

Now the Council wants to hear from the public about what projects should receive funding.

Details of the €50m fund were announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, and Minister of State Joe O'Brien. The fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Among the projects that will be supported are:

- The refurbishment of local sports clubs and facilities
- The upgrade of community facilities such as play areas, walkways, parks and community gardens
- The purchase of equipment to benefit local clubs, festivals, music and arts organisations
- The enhancement of school or parish facilities that are open to the wider community after hours or on weekends
- Transport infrastructure such as community vehicles and bus shelters

County Wicklow rewarded at Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards

County Wicklow received six prizes at the 2022 Irish Independent Travel Awards. The Awards are sorted by categories with the objective to list the best tourism experiences and destinations around Ireland and the world. Categories include Ireland's top walks, beaches, hotels, campsites, visitor attractions and more.

This year Wicklow did remarkably well and took the following awards:

- The Spinc Loop in Glendalough: Number 1 for Ireland's Best Walk Trail/Trail
- Hidden Valley: Number 1 for Best Campsite
- Powerscourt Hotel: Number 3 for Best Spa
- River Valley: Number 4 for Best Campsite
- Beyond the Tree, Avondale: Number 6 for Sustainability
- Brittas Bay Beach: Number 10 for Best Beach in Ireland

Housing & Community

1. Housing

	January 2023	January 2022
No. on list for Social Housing Support – (includes RAS & HAP)*	4505	4509
No. availing of Rental Assistance Scheme (RAS)	191	238
No. availing of Housing Assistance Payment	2704	2488
No. in Long Term Leasing Accommodation	22	19
No. in Short Term Leasing Accommodation	32	31

Allocation of Social Housing

	January 2022	January 2023
Wicklow County Council	39	05
Approved Housing Bodies	3	75

Social Housing Stock

	January 2023	January 2022
Tenancies occupied	4,796	4,641
Total weekly rental accrual	325,148.28	303,326.46
Arrears	2,786,049.90	2,667,542.36

Vacant dwellings

MD - Feb 2023	Total Vacant
Arklow	15
Baltinglass	26
Bray	34
Greystones	5
Wicklow	36
Totals	116

Housing Supply – Programme of Delivery

Schemes Recently Completed	UNITS	CURRENT STATUS
Ard na Greine, Bray	31	Completed and allocated
Delany Park Arklow (Phase 2 + 3)	47	Completed and allocated
Hawkstown Park (Ashtown Lane), Wicklow Design & Build	40	Completed and allocated
Mountainview, NTMK Design & Build	22	Completed and allocated
Sheehan Court Arklow	7	Completed and allocated
Schemes on Site	Units	CURRENT STATUS
Greenhill Road Wicklow Design & Build (Changed to Affordable scheme)	36	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Avondale Phase 2 Design & Build	20	Completion anticipated Q1 2023
Cedar Court Bray Design & Build	14	Completion anticipated Q2 2023
Cois Droichead, Greystones	41	Completion anticipated Q1 2024
Ballard Shillelagh	20	Completion anticipated Q4 2023
Pipeline Schemes	Units	Current Status
Lugduff Tinahely	20	Tender being assessed
Merrymeeting, Rathnew, Phase 2	21	Started on site
Fassaroe, Bray	15	Stage 2 approval received – Part 8 advertised
Ballynerrin, Wicklow	10	Part 8 received. Site start during Q1 2023
Burgage More Blessington	106	Part of PPP bundle 3 with NDFA. Tender stage
Lott Lane, Kilcoole	75	Stage 2 received. – part 8 ongoing
Rehills, Bray	80	PPP bundle 5
Burnaby, Greystones	75	PPP Bundle 5
Ballinahinch Ashford	25	Design Stage
Sheephouse Arklow	30	Design Stage

Public Private Partnership.

- A site at Tinahask in Arklow has been included in Bundle 6 of the PPP Wicklow County Council are progressing with a design on the site in parallel

Part V

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Bray	20	18 Delivered, remaining 2 Units Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Rathnew	6	3 Delivered Q1 2022 , 3 Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Delgany	3	Scheduled Q2 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	5	Delivered Q3 2022	CALF
Rathdrum	3	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Kilcoole	3	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Greystones/Delgany	60	60 Delivered 2022	CALF
Enniskerry	2	Delivered Q3 2022	WCC
Delgany	4	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Delgany	1	Scheduled Q4 2022	WCC
Rathdrum	7	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	6	Scheduled Q1/Q2 2023	CALF
Tinahely	1	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Greystones	1	Delivered Q4 2022	WCC
Wicklow	6	Delivered Q4 2022	CALF
Ashford	14	Delivered Q4 2022	CALF
Arklow	16	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	5	Delivery Due Q1 2023	CALF
Bray	1	Delivery due Q2 2023	CALF

Potential units

Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Rathdrum, with delivery ranging from 2022-2024. This includes the units listed above. WCC is in negotiations in respect of over 100 further units with delivery dates yet to be confirmed.

Wicklow County Council is currently holding discussions with a number of developers at preplanning and planning stage. There are over 100 potential Part V units with planning permission but it's difficult to determine whether they will all proceed or even on what timescale.

Turnkey

Location	No. of Units	Due for Delivery	Method
Arklow	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	CALF
Rathnew	10	10 Delivered Q2 2022	WCC
Bray	188	30 Units Delivered Q2-Q3 2022, Remaining units Scheduled for Delivery Q1 2023	CALF
Rathdum	13	Scheduled Q1 2023	WCC
Rathdrum	30	Scheduled Q1 2023	CALF
Arklow	40	40 Delivered, 2022	CALF
Arklow	35	Due for delivery 2023	CALF
Blessington	40	Delivery Due Q1 2023	CALF
Greystones	84	Delivered Q4 2022	CALF

Greystones	90	Delivered Q4 2022	CAS
Bray	17	Delivery Date Q2 2023	CALF
Ashford	2	Delivered Q4 2023	CALF

- Negotiations are on-going with a number of Developers and AHB's in relation to acquiring further Turnkey units.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The Approved Housing Bodies are actively pursuing a number of potential CALF projects and are liaising closely with the Council on a regular basis. The members will be kept updated.

Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) Wicklow County Council is continuing to support acquisitions under the Capital Assistance Scheme with Dublin Simon, Circle Housing, Ark Housing and Peter McVerry Trust.

Expressions of Interest – Social Housing on Council lands - A preferred proposal has been identified.

Home Improvement/Adaptation

1. Mobility Aid Grants / Housing Adaption Grants / Housing Aid for Older People

- › Grant funding for private house - €2,299,375 (2022 budget figures) - €125,764.94 spent to date
- › Grant funding for social house - €818,793.00 (2022 budget figures) €117,380.28 spent to date
- 140 open applications (some carried over from 2021/2022)
- 212 approvals (some carried over from 2021/2022)

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Grants Received/Processed	249	216	266	327	281	61

Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability

The Housing and Disability Steering Group has prepared the new draft Co. Wicklow Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disability 2022-2027. The next meeting of the HDSG is due to take place in April 2023

Housing for Older People - Age Friendly Schemes

Millbank, Mill Road – 2 x 2 bed properties	Contractor on site – expected completion in June 2023
Castle Villas - Two 2 bed properties	Contacto on site
Carrig Eden - 14 units x 1 bed age friendly units	Part 8 complete commencement of design and build project to begin shortly

Kilcoole Health Centre - 4 no 1 bed apartments	Detailed design complete – stage 43 approval received – tender documents being prepared
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Vacant Homes Scheme

There are now 17 CPOs underway on long term vacant houses around the county.

30 South Green, Arklow	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. House will be Vested in Wicklow Co Co with effect from 5 th of December 2022. Dealing pending at Land Registry.
5 Priory Way, Delgany	House in possession of the Council since March 2022. House now Vested in Wicklow Co Co with effect from 12 th of November 2022. Dealing pending at Land Registry.
8 Sycamore Drive, Newtownmountkennedy	House purchased from START Mortgages by agreement. Council tenant now in situ.
5 Ashwood, Roundwood	Confirmed CPO. House now purchased by agreement and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
108 Charnwood, Bray	Oral hearing held by An Bord Pleanála on 17 th August 2021 but no decision yet notified to parties. Still waiting Jan 2023.
10 Liam Mellows Avenue, Arklow	House now in possession of WCC since 8 th of November 2022. Compensation package to be agreed.
33 Connolly Street, Arklow	CPO Confirmed. Purchased by agreement with Receiver. In our possession since 20/5/2022 and will be refurbished prior to allocation.
6 Ashleigh, Ashford	Oral hearing of An Bord Pleanála held on 21 st June. Purchase by agreement with Receiver now complete (in WCC ownership from 24 th of October 2022).
114 Hillside, Greystones	CPO published. Objection lodged. Oral Hearing opened on 20 th of October but adjourned until 26 th Jan 2023 to allow parties to conclude sale by agreement. Deal now agreed.
18 Delgany Glen, Greystones	Oral Hearing did not proceed as house now acquired by agreement from Receiver.
2 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town	CPO published. No objections lodged. CPO confirmed 12 th April. Confirmation newspaper ad 26 th April. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. House in possession of WCC since 3 rd August 2022. This house will require a Vesting Order – which cannot happen until Feb 2023 at the earliest. Refurbishment work to follow.
88 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	CPO confirmed. Notice to Treat and Notice of Entry served. In our possession since 28 th of June. Compensation now agreed. Contracts being exchanged.

100 Wicklow Heights, Wicklow Town	House now acquired by agreement with Link Financial and in possession of the Council since 25 th of August 2022.
53 South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 15 th September 2022. CPO Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála 12 th of October. 8 week period to allow for application to High Court for Judicial Review expired. Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023.
53A South Green, Arklow	CPO published 1 st week in April. Objection from owner. Oral Hearing 16 th September 2022. CPO Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála 12 th of October. 8 week period to allow for application to High Court for Judicial Review. Notice to Treat served 9 th January 2023.
41 Kilgarron Park, Enniskerry	CPO confirmed. Receiver in contact with Council with a view to purchase by agreement. Our Valuer has inspected the house and has prepared his report – purchase underway.
2 Harbour Road (“Merdenville”), Arklow	CPO published Dec 2022. Negotiations underway with owner.

Further long-term vacant properties are currently being identified for future batches of CPOs.

Affordable Housing

Greenhill Road Affordable Housing Scheme was launched to the public for applications on 09/01/2023, and closed on 30/01/2023. There has been a lot of interest from the public and Wicklow County Council received over 140 applications for the 36 properties. We are currently in the process of writing out to eligible applicants with housing offers for the site and hope to begin the formal process of selling the houses in the near future. The scheme was very popular and well received locally.

No. of units	Beds	Type	Story	House Price	Minimum House Purchase Price
6	2 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€280,000	€222,716
6	2 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€290,000	€236,702
16	3 bed	Terrace	2 Storey	€315,000	€252,295
8	3 bed	End Terrace	2 Storey	€330,000	€275,618

Wicklow County Council also received approval for future affordable housing schemes in the county in the past month – one development in Rathnew(44) and another in Baltinglass(22), These will be provided directly by the developer . Wicklow County Council also has plans for further developments throughout the county.

Croí Cónaithe (Towns, Cities and Rural)

This is a new scheme announced by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Govt in July 2022. Up to €30,000 grant available for houses which are:

- Vacant for more than 2 years.
- Built prior to 1993.
- Within a town or village (rural houses not covered).
- To be used as the applicant’s permanent dwelling.

The grant amount can be increased to €50,000 in cases where the building is Dangerous or Structurally Unsound (requires an Engineers Report). Buildings which are currently non-residential (such as vacant commercial units – shops etc) but which the applicant intends to convert to residential use, can also qualify.

It is intended to revitalise towns and villages by addressing vacancy and dereliction. The Croí Cónaithe scheme has been extended in November 2022 to include rural locations also, opening up the scheme to derelict farmhouses ect. There has been a lot of interest in this scheme to date.

Infill Sites

- Blackhills – Two 3 bed semi-detached properties allocated February 2023
- Knockroe – Two 4 bed fully accessible homes has been tendered and a contractor appointed. To commence before the end of January 2023.

Housing Maintenance – Boiler servicing & safety checking campaign

The focus now is on servicing and safety checking of 1416 Oil and 2269 Gas boilers around the county. Contractors are reporting **access rates as low as 60%** which is surprising given the current “Cost of Living” crisis with high fuel costs. It is in tenants’ interests to ensure that they provide access to contractors to service and safety check boilers. Oil boilers in particular will consume more fuel if soot build up is not removed at the annual service. Also important checks and replacement of components such as fuel hoses are carried out on oil boilers which prevents expensive loss of fuel and environmental damage which is extremely expensive to clean up. All new boilers fitted now are condensing boilers which have higher thermal efficiency and use less fuel.

Local Authority Home loans up to January 2023

Received	Approved in principle
6	0

2016 Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

	To date	January 2023
Applications Received	391	3
Completed	97	0
Declined	271	3
Ongoing	23	23

Homeless figures for January 2023

Addressing Homelessness			
	As at 31/01/2023	Year To Date	As at 31/01/2022
No of New Presentations	38	38	26
No. of Repeat Presentations	0	0	10
No. of Families (Minimum 1 Adult + One Child)	21	21	19
No. of Individuals (Single Adult, no children)	17	17	15
No. Of Couples (2 Adults, no children)	0	0	1
No. of Children	37	37	37
NTQ/Asked to Leave/Landlord selling	13	13	11
Family Circumstances	12	12	7
Leaving Prison/Hospital Care	1	1	1
Mental Health	3	3	0
Risk of Homelessness	1	1	5
Arrears/Loss of Income	2	2	0
Addiction Issues	1	1	2
DV/DA	3	3	4
Medical Issues	1	1	0
Overcrowding	2	2	1
Unsuitable/Voluntarily Left	9	9	4
ASB:	1	1	1
Rough Sleeping*	3	3	0
Sofa Surfing*	6	6	3
Staying with Family*	6	6	8
Staying with Friends*	1	1	2

*(Recorded as a Consequence of Homelessness as opposed to a Reason for Homelessness)

Own Door Temporary Accommodation at 31/01/23	
Families	17
Adults	30
Children	49
Single individual	1

Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/01/23								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	22	27	22	4	8	3	3	4
Bed & Breakfast Accommodation - No. of Homeless Emergency Accommodation Placements & Duration @ 31/01/22								
	No. of Households	No. of Adults	No. of Children	< 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	>12mths
Household breakdown	14	18	11	7	5	0	2	1

The Homeless HAP Place finder provides assistance in:

- seeking out potential properties suitable for households currently identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- liaising with specific households to establish their specific needs;
- establishing relationships with local property agents and landlords; and,
- supporting those homeless households to (a) prevent the necessity to enter emergency accommodation or (b) to exit emergency accommodation and secure a tenancy.
- To date, 425 households (312 families & 108 singles) have been assisted under the Homeless HAP Scheme in Wicklow County Council from the inception on 1st October, 2018 to 31th January 2023. (182 homeless cases, 234 prevention cases to date and 9 direct provision). 127 properties were sourced by WCC.

Addressing Homelessness in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow

There are 11 clients supported in the Kilmantin Hill facility, operated by Dublin Simon, with continuing transition by the clients to suitable, alternative accommodation.

Homeless Family Service – Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow

Dublin Simon has been engaged by Wicklow County Council to operate and manage the facility at Fitzwilliam Road, Wicklow as a Family Homeless Service. The building comprises of 3 x 1 bed units 2 x 2 bed units and 2 x 3 bed units - All of the apartments in the hub are now occupied. One family have now transitioned to a permanent allocation and this vacancy has been filled. There are plans underway to move two further families to more permanent accommodation in the near future thus freeing up accommodation for families experiencing or in danger of homelessness

It is envisaged that families will avail of the service for circa 6 month STA (Supported Temporary Accommodation) with key working support to enable family's transition from homelessness into Homeless HAP or alternative longer term accommodation.

Homeless Supported Temporary Accommodation – San Remo, Bray

San Remo is operated by Dublin Simon, incorporates a service model where there are a number of emergency/cold weather initiative Beds and Supported Temporary Accommodation Beds (STA). There is on site key working support linking in with clients.

The Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is now operational and meets monthly.

Bi- monthly meetings are held with Dublin Simon and Wicklow County Council staff

Homeless Supported Accommodation - Carraig Eden, Greystones

The facility providing 35 ensuite bedrooms with associated kitchens and common areas is fully operational. Wicklow County Council have made arrangements to run an in-reach service with the clients to support them as they continue their journey into more permanent accommodation.

Other Homeless Supported Accommodation

Wicklow County Council owned properties in Wicklow, Bray and Arklow, leased to AHBs, provide 12 units of low to medium supported accommodation targeted to the particular support needs of the clients.

A homeless outreach service is now being rolled out in Bray

Housing First

Peter McVerry Trust has been appointed as the Housing First Programme Implementer for the Mid-East Region. Wicklow County Council is committed to working with them to achieve the targets identified in the programme. Housing first recognises that a stable home provides the basis for recovery in other areas.

Properties will be provided by both Wicklow County Council and Peter McVerry Trust for the implementation of the programme.

Wicklow County Council has, to date, successfully accommodated 13 clients under Housing First and it is hoped that 2 further allocations will take place before the end of February 2023. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are availing of key support work pending finalisation of sourcing of accommodation – the main issue facing this programme is the availability of one bed units in suitable locations with easy access to services etc.

Traveller accommodation

Capital Programme

Ballintekin – 3 houses	Contractor on site- expected completion date August 2023
Avondale Heights, Rathdrum – 3 houses	Approval received for funding from Department, – Part V111 approved detailed design and tender documents complete - due to the reduction in the number of houses required stage 3 application will have to be resubmitted to the Department.
Barndarrig Group Housing scheme for 3 houses	Due to change in the family circumstances – site selection will need to be reconsidered – consultant appointed to examine same.

Fire safety annual checks on Halting sites for 2022 has been carried out and the 2023 will commence in September 2023.

Energy Efficiency

Energy Efficiency Fabric Upgrade Phase 2

All 71 properties given approval for energy efficiency fabric upgrade works in 2022 have been substantially completed. Surveying of the houses identified for 2023 programme has commenced.

Ukrainian Response

- As of 24th February the numbers of Ukrainians Displaced Persons in emergency type accommodation is 1,451 (although we know that there are considerably more in the County)

This number is broken down as follows –

- Arklow MD 237 No.
 - Baltinglass MD 305 No.
 - Bray MD 619 No.
 - Greystones MD 152 No.
 - Wicklow MD 138 No.
-
- WCC are currently assessing all Displaced Ukrainians persons in the County in order to identify their accommodation needs as well linking them in with all the relevant services and supports within the community.
 - WCC are working through a list of pledged properties within the County and matching families accordingly. As of the 24th February we will have housed 195 number displaced Ukrainian people. Larger buildings and vacant units are also being identified and explored as potential options for medium to long term accommodation.
 - A new National Vacant Home call lead by Local Authorities has been launched, and is currently in place for a property to be pledged directly to Wicklow County Council offerahome@wicklowcoco.ie
 - The Community Reponse Forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis

2. Community

Age Friendly Ireland

County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027

The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023- 2027, as adopted by the Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance in December, was presented to the elected representatives at the Wicklow Council Meeting, on 9th January 2023, and adopted as presented.

Mary Butler, TD, Minister for Mental Health and Older People will formally launch the new strategy at County Buildings on 27th February 2023.

Older Person's Council

The County Wicklow Older People's Council Executive will hold its next meeting on 17th February 2023.

TrioBikes for CommunityCare



Wicklow County Council purchased two triobikes, with funding from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, to be deployed to two community care centres for the use of older people in their care and vulnerable older adults with limited mobility, for the purpose of outdoor recreation.

Service Level Agreements (SLAs) have now been signed with to Baltinglass Community Hospital and Carnew Community Care Centre for use of the triobikes, which will be delivered to them as soon as insurance cover is confirmed.

Community Awards Scheme 2023

As part of its commitment to supporting local community development, Wicklow County Council operates an annual Community Awards Scheme. The fund for 2023 will be available as grant aid to successful community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area. The maximum grant is €500 for small projects and group running costs. The date for receipt of applications was 4.00 p.m. on Friday 24th February 2023. Work on processing the applications is now underway.

Community Recognition Fund 2023

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys and Minister of State Joe O'Brien, have recently set out the details of the €50 million Community Recognition Fund for the Country. This Community Recognition Fund 2023 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by

communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Wicklow County Council has received a total of €1,680,887 for the county from this fund.

Among the projects that will be supported under the fund will include:

- The refurbishment of local sports clubs and facilities
- The upgrade of community facilities such as play areas, walkways, parks and community gardens
- The purchase of equipment to benefit local clubs, festivals, music and arts organisations
- The enhancement of school or parish facilities that are open to the wider community after hours or on weekends
- Transport infrastructure such as community vehicles and bus shelters

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants (“new arrivals”) including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.

Feedback is sought now from the public with the link to the public consultation survey available on the Wicklow County Council website and various social media platforms. If you would like to have your say on the Community Recognition Fund, please see link provided. The deadline for completion of this online survey is Friday, 3rd March 2023.

Community Support Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022

The 2022 Community Support Fund with an allocation of €308,834 for Wicklow is now open for applications. This scheme is administered through the LCDC. Application forms are available on www.wicklow.ie or email cep@wicklowcoco.ie. The closing date for receipt of applications is 4.00 p.m. on Friday 31st March 2023.

County Library Service

2022 Statistics

Wicklow County Council's investment in its library service is paying dividends, with Wicklow leading the way under a number of Performance Indicators for 2022.

2022	National Avg	Wicklow	Position
Unique Items Borrowed per 1000 Pop	1447	2082	1
Items Borrowed, including Renewals per 1000 Pop	1803	2573	1
E-Books & E- Audio Books Downloaded Per 1000 Pop	442	690	1

Statistics compiled by LGMA in November 2022, indicated that Library Visits for 2022 would be at approximately 60% of their 2019 total. Wicklow libraries recovered to 84% of the 2019 library visits, recording 484,788 Visits to libraries in 2022 (vs 575,725 in 2019).

Ireland Reads



Libraries throughout Wicklow are taking part in *Ireland Reads*, a campaign to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to a national day of reading on Saturday, February 25th.

The campaign is asking everyone to 'squeeze in a read' on "*Ireland Reads Day*", Saturday, February 25th.

Campaign partners and libraries all over the country will be running '*Ireland Reads*' initiatives and events throughout February in the build up to Saturday, February 25th.

Wicklow Libraries will be launching their Wicklow Word Millionaire campaign to coincide with Ireland Reads – this is the perfect partner initiative and the aim is to get adults to read a million words in 2023. Other events include an author visit by Sam Blake on Tuesday 21st February, children's events, a new Men's

Non-Fiction Book Club in Blessington Library and much more.

Series of Art History Talks at Greystones Library

Greystones Library has come up with an opportunity for Art appreciation enthusiasts to while away 45 minutes in the middle of the day. Join Art Historian, Susan Campbell in the library as she brings artwork to life. You will learn how to figure out the artists influences, when the work was created and its relevance in today's world.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Annual Plans 2023 for the county have now been received by Wicklow LCDC and are being evaluated. Final approval date Feb. 28th.

Both Partnerships have also submitted all requirements necessary pertaining to the Annual Performance Review of SICAP programme 2022. Evaluation will be an ongoing process in conjunction with Wicklow LCDC and Pobal over coming weeks. Final approval date also Feb. 28th.

Co. Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Consultations: Codling Wind Park Phase 2; Eirgrid Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment; Strategy Statement for the National Parks & Wildlife Service; Social Enterprise Policy Consultation; An Taisc EU Life Project; Garden Bird Survey; Arklow Transport Study; DRCD Training Needs for Community Groups Research; Law Reform Commissions Consultation Paper on Liability of Clubs Societies & Unincorporated Associations; Ireland's Voluntary National Review of the SDGs 2023; Dublin Array Wind Farm 2nd Public Consultation, Reált na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Phase 2.

Training Opportunities: Wicklow Local Sports & Recreation Partnership Training Programme; Suicide Prevention & Intervention Programme; Failte Isteach English Classes; Learning & Capacity Building for Volunteer involving Groups; Aline Community Impact; Arches Recovery Education.

Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Community & Voluntary Sector Energy Support Scheme; Arts Act Fund; Musical Capital Scheme; Community Monuments Fund; Built Heritage Conservation Fund; Community Water Development Fund;

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Community Enhancement/Support Fund; Wicklow County Council Community Awards; Headstart Fund; Community Recognition Fund; Arts Council Young Ensembles Scheme; RTE Toy Show Fund; European Youth Foundation Grants.

See www.countywicklowppn.ie for further information on above or email info@countywicklowppn.ie

LECP Report

Development of new LECP

A draft framework of the objectives and actions of the new LECP has been prepared and the LCDC are now at the stage of finalising the development of the community element of the plan.

Economic Development, Planning, and Infrastructure

1. Economic Development

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (Economic)

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas.

The next Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2029 will set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wicklow, both directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

Wicklow County Council appointed a team of consultants from People and Place to assist with the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029. The timeline for completion of the Plan is the end of 2023. The Economic Development unit has been engaging with the business community, government and local agencies to help identify priorities for the County over the lifetime of the plan.

5 High Level Goals have been identified incorporating Community, Climate Action and Economic Development.

Town Teams

Under the Government policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of Town Teams is encouraged and we are likely to see more Town Teams in situ over the coming years.

Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2016. In 2021 Wicklow County Council appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review the results were published in 2022. The result of the review was presented to the elected members at their October meeting.

The review has been presented to the Town Teams and it is proposed to have a plenary session with all Town Teams early in 2023 when the Town Regeneration Officer is in place.

Blessington Town Centre First Masterplan

Blessington has been awarded funding of €100,000 to develop a Master Plan for the town under the Town Centre First policy. This will also allow plans for projects identified as part of the drive to become e-Greenway ready to be advanced.

This initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future – the Government’s ambitious five-year strategy designed to reimagine and revitalise rural Ireland. It is also linked to the Government’s Housing for All strategy and a key component of the Town Centre First policy.

Wicklow County Council will work closely with local community groups, retailers and members of the Town Team in devising and delivering on the objectives of the Masterplan building on the very comprehensive Health Check carried out by Future Analytics.

Blessington Town Team

The newly appointed Town Regeneration Officer joined the BTT meeting online on 7th February.

Arklow Town Team

The first meeting of 2023 members of the Arklow Town Team received updates on projects currently in progress and discussed other exciting plans for 2023.

Arklow Town Team were delighted to present members of the Arklow Community First Responders with €1,400, the proceeds of the raffle from the recent, and very successful Christmas Ladies Lunch Fundraiser.

The Harbour to Headwaters Project – River Tourism project is due to be launched on the 22nd March 2023. The exciting Biodiversity Trail includes 14 locations across the region from the Harbour in Arklow right up along the river catchment to the Headwaters of Glenmalure; you can find information panels specific to each of those points on the River network.

Painted Playground Project, Seaview Avenue – With final touches being added, it is hoped to hold a special launch for this colourful addition to the area.

International Woman’s Day March 2023 – International Woman’s Day provides an important opportunity to showcase commitment to woman’s equality and also to raise awareness. A lunch will be held in the Arklow Bay Hotel to celebrate and the theme for this year is “Embrace Equity” #EmbraceEquity. Tickets are available from the Municipal District and The Arklow Bay Hotel.

Flower Basket Scheme – The Town Team look forward to continuing the scheme for 2023. The Flower Baskets provide beautiful colour and are a welcome addition.

Greystones Town Team

Greystones Town Team continues to have regular meetings with all key stakeholders in attendance.

Their sub groups collaborate under the following headings:

- Communications, Events, Digital & Sport
- Public Realm and Tidy Towns
- Sustainable Greystones
- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism
- Governance, Administration and Finance
- Business Network

The East Business Network held their first workshop of 2023 on Digital Marketing, which was over-subscribed and feedback was very positive. More workshops are being scheduled and a plan for the year ahead is being put together also.

The Greystones train station project is all but complete now and a subgroup from the Tidy Towns will maintain the area.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The current strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the strategy.

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

Tender documents are being prepared seeking consultants to develop a new Tourism Strategy to replace the current strategy taking into account the changes in tourism post Covid 19 and the focus on sustainable tourism.

See below some of the projects Wicklow Tourism has been working on:

Press Releases and Articles:

- **Disenchanted Film Locations in Wicklow, Ireland**
Following the release of the Disney movie, we thought it would be interesting to remind people of how great Enniskerry was over the summer when it was transformed for the shoot. See article at <https://visitwicklow.ie/disenchanted-film-locations-in-wicklow-ireland/>
- **County Wicklow Rewarded at 2022 Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards**
County Wicklow received six prizes at the 2022 Irish Independent Travel Awards. The Awards are sorted by categories with the objective to list the best tourism experiences and destinations around

Ireland and the world. Categories include Ireland's top walks, beaches, hotels, campsites, visitor attractions and more. See full article at

<https://visitwicklow.ie/county-wicklow-rewarded-at-2022-irish-independent-reader-travel-awards/>

- **Unique Romantic Locations for a Wicklow Proposal**

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we have listed a few romantic places for an unforgettable Wicklow proposal. Wicklow is the ideal place to bring your partner for a romantic overnight, special meal, forest walk and much more. Wicklow in Springtime is something special. Think crisp days and cosy evenings. Wicklow offers some stunning locations that have been chosen by many to get down on one knee and pop that special question!

See full article on <https://visitwicklow.ie/top-romantic-locations-for-a-wicklow-proposal/>

- **Top Things to See & Do in Bray**

Bray was probably the original Irish Tourism Destination in the 19th Century. Bray has evolved since then but has kept its identity as a great tourism destination, offering visitors loads to see and do. We created an article with the

'must do's' for anyone coming to Bray for a few days. Full article at <https://visitwicklow.ie/brays-top-things-to-see-do/>

Social Media Campaigns

The above articles have been heavily pushed through our various social media platforms. We have sourced strong imagery through 'users generated content' or using our own to post quality content. Reach has been extremely good, with organic page reach above 90,000 on Facebook and around 10,000 on Instagram. We created a short Bray video that achieved 50,000 reach between the two platforms.

Holiday World Show Dublin

The Wicklow Passport proved extremely popular and more than 600 passports were distributed at the Holiday World Show in Dublin at the end of January. The Celtic Routes promotional project had booked a stand, and Wicklow Tourism was present for the three days pushing the Wicklow Passport. Interest in the Wicklow Passport is constantly growing with ongoing sales through the visitwicklow.ie website.

Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

The Wicklow County Campus Masterplan will focus on developing Wicklow County Campus as a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Education, and Innovation in County Wicklow. Wicklow County Council will use the Masterplan to act as a catalyst for economic development in the county and attract investment and further development.

A tender for the Wicklow County Campus Masterplan has been awarded to MOLA Ltd, and they are now working on Phase 1 of creating the Masterplan. A meeting to review Phase 1 and move to Phase 2 will be held end February / early March.

A first meeting has been held between Wicklow County Council and the project team, which consists of MOLA Architects as project leader, supported by a team consisting of a Transport Engineer, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, and a Quantity Surveyor.

Stage 1 – Data Collection and Analysis has begun and will be completed by early March. The project is expected to be complete early in Q3 of 2023.

Abbey Grounds, Wicklow

The purchase of the Abbey Grounds, Wicklow completed in August and it is intended that the space will be enhanced and redeveloped into the Abbey Gardens and Event Space, through Destination Towns funding provided by Fáilte Ireland. The Parochial House has been retained by St. Laurence O’Toole Diocesan Trust and a separate entrance way will be provided as part of the redevelopment.

The redevelopment will include converting the existing Coach House for use as a Café / Retail / Exhibition space and public toilets, installing a natural amphitheatre arrangement to provide for public performance events, a new pedestrian access, pathways for improved accessibility, and public seating.

Following the Archaeological investigations / in the Abbey Grounds and the discovery of medieval remains on the site other options will now have to be considered for the redevelopment of the Abbey Grounds. The target for completion of this project is Q3 2023.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), the National Monuments Service (NMS), and Wicklow County Council commissioned Consarc Design Group with a multidisciplinary team to deliver a Visitor Experience and Management Masterplan for Glendalough and Wicklow Mountains National Park and Visitor Orientation Recommendations for Co. Wicklow.

The Consultants have presented the Draft Plan to the Councillors and the consultation period ran from 11th November, 2022 until 18th January, 2023. Following the completion of the consultation period, the final plan will be produced taking account of the feedback received.

Outdoor Performance Space

The letter of Contract Award for design Consultants issued to the successful tenderer on the 30th March. The successful tenderer is Vincent Hannon Architects. Meetings have taken place with Strand Road residents, Royal Marine Terrace and Martello Terrace. Site meetings have taken place with the Design Team, Council officials and representatives from the Mermaid Theatre where the different canopy options were discussed. The project team continue to consult with experts in this industry on the different styles of canopy options available. When the final design is agreed drawings will be prepared and presented to the Members prior to commencing the Part 8 process.

Rural and Urban Regeneration Development Fund Grant Applications

Blessington has been awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a Masterplan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin "Our Rural Future" Ireland's Rural Development policy.

The costings for Baltinglass Gateway to Southwest Wicklow have come in over budget on both the public realm and the Courthouse refurbishment. The proposals have been revised and an application for additional funding has been submitted to the DRCD.

URDF: Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Arklow and Wicklow URDF projects completed. Bray Harbour and Bray Public Transport Bridge in progress (design/planning stage). A non-statutory public consultation in respect of Bray Harbour was held in December.

A 3rd round URDF scheme has just been announced. The purpose of the scheme is to address long term vacancy and dereliction. It is intended that the scheme will fund local authorities to acquire long term vacant/derelict properties for refurbishment/repurposing and to bring them back into use primarily for housing. From the proceeds of the sale of the first round of refurbished properties local authorities will build up a revolving fund for the development of a rolling programme to address long term vacancy in the county. In conjunction with this some of the URDF team are due to visit Wicklow to review existing projects and a briefing for the new scheme is due to be held on 15th February.

It is likely that later in the year there will be a further call for URDF projects along the more traditional lines.

Next Steps

- I. Review and provide an update on all call 1&2 projects
- II. Highlight any which are not proceeding
- III. Provide an up to date costing supported by a QS report where necessary
- IV. Identify buildings and sites within the URDF eligible towns – give details of numbers of residential units which could be provided
- V. Submit the value of the revolving fund required in order to make an impact on eligible towns
- VI. Review staffing submission and clarify which posts are required immediately

Bray Harbour Improvements

URDF Funding of €7,140,00 approved (75% match funding for total spend of €9,520,000) Consultants RPS appointed July, 2021 to undertake analysis of the terrestrial harbour environment with a view to presenting an options appraisal to complement ongoing marine work.

The requirement for additional environmental assessments was identified in the draft Feasibility Report. RPS was requested to carry out an EIA Scoping Exercise as an add-on to their current engagement. A draft EIA has been received which has been reviewed. A public information day and presentation to the elected members was held on 6th of December. In line with the EIA Regulations the report was submitted to An Board Pleanala requesting a formal scoping opinion in accordance with Article 95 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of this project. The District Engineer is working on the preparation of tender documents to engage Consultants to prepare detailed design and produce contract documents.

Land Management

Wicklow County Council Economic Development Unit are progressing the acquisition of Enterprise Space in Greystones from Cairn.

A tender was published on eTenders to find a property consultant to take approx. 4.7 acres on the Mill Road, Greystones to market and seek proposals to include a hotel, some residential, and possibly some retail/office space. The closing date for tender submissions is 21st February 2023 with an award decision anticipated by 14th March.

Offshore Renewable Energy

The area of offshore renewable energy is rapidly evolving. Due to the number of projects proposed off the coast of Wicklow it is important that the County engages with the process to enable the community of Wicklow to benefit from the opportunities arising while mitigating against any likely impacts that any offshore renewable project will have.

Key milestones have been:

1. The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme Consultation. Wicklow County Council made a submission strongly supporting the case for the funds created as a result of the offshore renewable energy projects to be managed and distributed locally rather than centrally.
2. The adoption of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 aimed at harnessing Ireland's offshore wind potential while protecting our marine environment.
3. The Marine Area Consent process is now open for relevant projects, it should be noted that the Arklow Bank Wind Farm, which is Ireland's first offshore wind farm, is at an advanced stage of planning and has been operating under an earlier consent regime. SSE has recently announced its intention to apply for a larger more ambitious project under the new MAC scheme.

4. An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission to SSE Renewables to develop the onshore grid infrastructure necessary to connect the 800MW Phase 2 of Arklow Bank Wind Park.
5. Codling Windpark has submitted their Marine Area Consent application, this is a very significant milestone in the development of Ireland's largest offshore windfarm.
6. Shelmalere Offshore Windfarm (DP Energy Iberdola) has completed consultation on its EIAR
7. Bord na Mona Ocean Winds Réalt na Mara Offshore Windfarm has delivered a number of community engagement clinics and is seeking to further engage with the local authority.
8. Energia is hosting monthly information clinics in Wexford and South Wicklow in respect of the South Irish Sea Project

The Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS) Auction opened on 11th January 2023. The Community Benefit Fund (CBF) associated with the ORESS Auction will be significant. The Draft Terms and Conditions of the ORESS and the Rulebook for the CBF scheme have been published. The outcome of the auction will be known in Q2 2023.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Wicklow County Council appointed James Burke Associates (JBA) to carry out a review of The Wicklow Food and Beverage Strategy 2019-2021 and to develop an Action Plan going forward. The new Plan will build on the original Plan but will also focus on Climate Action and development of the Food Incubation Hub and on Food Poverty. A meeting was held in December with James Burke to discuss and review outputs from the stakeholder meeting, to review progress on original goals and actions and to agree steps to final action plan

Wicklow Naturally continues to increase its network of members which adds to the array of County Wicklow's finest food and drink producers. The Wicklow Naturally AGM was held on 10th February.

So far this year Wicklow Naturally Members have taken part in Nollaig na mBan and Imbolc a celebration of St Brigid a host of food related events were held over the bank holiday weekend, with the support of Powerscourt Distillery.

The Farm to Fork Trails continues as guided and self-guided tours throughout County Wicklow with the aim of showcasing the best of Wicklow food and drinks producers and providers. Each stop on the trail will be a member of Wicklow Naturally and the trails will be updated as new members join. It is hoped that the initiative will continue to enhance the reputation of County Wicklow as a great destination for quality food and drink.

Skills Taskforce for County Wicklow

The Skills Taskforce has members from Wicklow County Council, the Training and Development sectors, as well as members representing the Film, Food and Renewables sectors.

A Request for Tender for a Skills Audit and Strategy was published in January with a closing date of 22nd February 2023. A number of companies have expressed an interest in the tender to date.

Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Remote Working Hubs

A tender will be published in Q1 of 2023 for the development of a marketing plan for all present and future Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) and Remote Working Hubs in County Wicklow, following a grant of €50,000.00 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development for this purpose.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS)

A Priming Grant of €199,600 has been awarded to Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG from Enterprise Ireland's Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) for the provision of Architectural Design Services & Project Design Preparation (including Part VIII) for a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus comprising regional infrastructure of scale for agri-food and drinks SMEs including specialist food production units, co-working innovation kitchens, and scaling and growth support services.

This funding will allow for plans to be primed for the full implementation of the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Centre. It will enable the recruitment of a project manager to advance plans for the centre, retention of an architect led design and multi-disciplinary team to prepare plans, appointment of a financial team to complete a business model and a financial analysis review, and the launch of a promotional awareness campaign.

The Wicklow Naturally Food Hub is expected to realise the following benefits within 3 years:

- Build sectoral improvement and smart specialisation with clear and achievable targets:
 - 4 food and drinks production tenants embedded in 4 independent food production units, creating 40 new jobs;
 - Development kitchen for product development, training, and small-scale production enabling 40 new food and drink start-ups to create 80 new jobs;
 - 1500 industry professionals participating in training/networking events;
 - 70 food and drink professionals attending regular networking events;
 - 30 businesses receiving business growth mentoring support;
 - 20% reduction in costs of new concept development for early stage start-ups;
- Facilitate food businesses to grow and develop their business by engaging with students academics and specialist mentors, through SETU and the Local Enterprise Office which are co-located on the Campus, to work on innovation led projects and avail of management capability training.
- Unlock real growth and scale in such a dense area of population as the mid-east region;
- Leverage the benefits of affordable food infrastructure close to Dublin to attract new, innovative food businesses to relocate.

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Wicklow County Campus is working towards a zero-carbon status in the near future through the use of solar energy and biomass heating systems and this will carry forward to the Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation Hub, helping to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 and the European Green Deal plan to build a fairer economy while protecting our planet.

The Food Hub will facilitate the development of scalable, sustainable, and profitable food businesses across the mid-east by providing the physical environment to choreograph opportunities for food entrepreneurs to interact with each other and will support Wicklow food and drink companies to adjust, pivot, or reposition themselves to respond to new market realities arising from Covid-19, Brexit, and other market changes, including climate change/sustainability, innovation, and digital transition.

Local Enterprise Office

LEO Objectives
<p>To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early-stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Grants Approved (number/ value) - Measure 1 - Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	-28/ €748,180 -8/ €12,829.95	- Meet Demand - Meet Demand	- -
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	68	64	3
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	84 / 7 programmes	75	15
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	653	900	70
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	8	20	2

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
Number of new clients added to database *Criteria have been amended for this metric	498	600	-

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Number of One-to-One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	426	500	41
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METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021/2022	2022/2023	Year to Date 23-24
No. of Secondary Student Participants	1138	1138	N/A

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2022	2023	Year to Date 2023
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2022	2023	Year to Date 2023
Trading Online Vouchers	67 Total value: € 138,464	50 (meet demand)	4

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	11	20	4

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2022	2023	2023
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	15	11	2

January 2023 Activities

2022 Job Creation Figures:

- 131 new jobs created in 2022
- 12% job increase from 2021
- Net employment gain of 64 in 2022
- 159 total small businesses employing 696 people supported by LEO Wicklow

2022 Metrics:

Green for Micro: 9 clients approved

Digital Start: 4 clients approved

1 portfolio client was transferred to the High Potential Start Up unit in Enterprise Ireland.

1 Company was approved an Agile Innovation Grant

44 Owner/Managers participated in the Owner/Manager Development Programme.

- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Business Advice Clinics continue to run 3 days per week to provide advice to those individuals hoping to start a business and to assist existing businesses grow and develop.
- 3 LEO clients were part-funded to exhibit at the DCCOI Showcase B2B trade fair at the RDS in January 2023
- The first seminar in the collaboration of LEO Wicklow and Network Ireland Wicklow (women in business network) took place on 26th January. The topic was 'Networking Skills' and 30 businesses women from all parts of Co. Wicklow attended.
- The LEO is continuing its one to one intensive support of 6 Wicklow based companies who are developing new export markets.
- Organisation and promotion to all local media and partners is underway of Local Enterprise Week in March.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer Business and IT Skills training programme has been published on the LEO website and now underway. A wide range of core business skills training courses are on offer from February through to June including. Courses are open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow. Interest in training seems to have picked up since last year with booking registrations looking strong.

Recently held courses include:

- Start Your Own Business Course, started 19th January, fully booked
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar, 24th January, 45 booked on
- Digital Marketing Clinics, 25th January, fully booked
- Smart phone Photography for Start Ups, 1 February 2023

2. Planning

Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council made a new County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (CDP) on Monday 12th September 2022. The new plan is in effect as of 23 October 2022 other than those elements that have been the subject of the draft Ministerial Direction. The draft Direction went on public display from 03 November 2022 to 16 November 2022, 14 submissions were received. The draft Direction was discussed at the full County Council meeting of 05 December 2022 and a Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received was issued to the OPR and the Minister on 13 December 2022. The OPR has submitted a recommendation to the Minister in January 2023, regarding whether the Direction is to be issued with or without minor amendments, or not issued. The Minister's decision is due the week ending 24 February 2023.

Healthy Placemaking, Climate Change and Economic Opportunity are the three overarching cross-cutting themes that inform and shape all aspects of the new plan. The plan also includes the Core Strategy and the Settlement Strategy for the County.

- This plan also includes new **Town Plans** for the following settlements:- Baltinglass, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdrum, Ashford, Auhgrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely, Avoca, Donard, Newcastle, Roundwood, Shillelagh and Laragh-Glendalough.
- This plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as well as a number of other important appendices.
- As part of the making of the new County Development Plan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the Schedule of Tree Preservations Orders have been amended, including the making of additions, deletions and amendments to existing entries. The RPS is included in Appendix 4 of the published County Development Plan. Owners and occupiers of relevant structures have received a separate written notification with regard to this.
- The plan is available to view and download on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Development-Plans-Strategies/National-Regional-County-Plans/Wicklow-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028/Stage-7>

Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation on three new LAPs for Greystones – Delgany & Kilcoole, Wicklow Town & Rathnew and Blessington. The team are at the data gathering and surveying stage and are currently consulting with all internal departments and state agencies. It is intended to start pre-draft plan public consultation in Q2 2023.

Consultants have been appointed to carry out the SEA and AA for these LAPs and they have commenced their preliminary work. All other studies / assessments are intended at this time to be carried out in-house.

Judicial Review of County Development Plan 2022-2028

Cairn Homes and Glenveagh have applied to the High Court seeking a judicial review of the Wicklow Co. Development Plan, challenging the housing targets reflected in the CDP.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

This is a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, and which will in time replace the Vacant Site Levy, was enacted as a part of the Finance Act 2021, as referred to in Circular NRUP 06/2021 of 22 December 2021. The aim of the tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands which are suitably zoned and serviced, as indicated on maps that have been prepared and published by local authorities for their respective functional areas. These maps were published on Wicklow County Councils website on 01 November 2022. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax. The tax measure is intended to encourage activation of existing planning permissions on lands which are identified as being in scope and to incentivise owners of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with Planning Authorities.

While residential zonings which include existing dwellings are to be included on the map(s), where connected or able to be connected to services, permanently occupied residential premises which are liable for Local Property Tax will not be liable for the tax.

The Minister has issued guidelines under Section 28 of the PDA to provide guidance to planning authorities in the preparation and publication of maps to identify lands in the scope for this new RZLT.

The 'in scope' maps went on display on 01 November 2022, with submissions invited up to 01 January 2023. Advertisements were placed in local papers and on the local radio station as well as Wicklow County Council social media. A total of 75 submissions were received which are currently being evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in the legislation. Submitters will be informed of the outcome of that assessment by 01 April 2023.

More information, including a copy of all submissions, can be found online at the following link

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Planning/Residential-Zoned-Land-Tax>

Wicklow Heritage & Biodiversity Office

Wicklow County Council received sanction for a new post of Biodiversity Officer, who commenced in January 2023. The Biodiversity Officer will play a key role in promoting biodiversity protection as part of the wide ranging functions of the Planning Development and Environment Directorate, as well as a strategic cross departmental role within the Council at large.

Funding application made to The Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan (CHP) fund for the following:

- Glendalough Community Excavation and outreach;
- Continuation of Barn Owl Project;
- East Coast Nature Reserve seasonal nature events;

- Support for Heritage and Biodiversity Plan reviews
- Outreach and communications.
- Community Archaeologist Part Time post.

Archaeology: Community Monuments Fund- CMF 2023 announced by National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in Q4 2022. Local Authorities invited to submit project applications. The scheme is co-ordinated on behalf of Wicklow County Council by the Heritage Office with applications invited by deadline of 27th Jan 2023. Applications accepted from private landowners, community groups, public authorities and other custodians of archaeological heritage. X 12 projects being prepared for submission by 14/02/2023 deadline; mix of public and privately owned monuments.

Architecture: Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) grant schemes 2023 opened for applications in Q4 2022 Closing date for applications was 27th Jan 2023. Co-ordinated by the Heritage Office on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage underway. 34 applications received to BHIS, 19 shortlisted for a total budget of €101,000. 5 projects submitted under HSF by deadline of 10/02/23.

Biodiversity Plan Fund: €100,000 available to each LA from NPWS, Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. Proposals currently in preparation to consolidate existing projects and develop new as follows: Continuation of Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project and Behind the Beach programme; initiate pond restoration pilots at selected locations on Council owned lands; undertake a county hedgerow survey; collaborate with Bat Conservation Ireland on developing new survey methodology; and undertake a year- long public outreach events, training and workshops. Closing date 24/02/23.

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI): Heritage Office worked with Arklow MD to develop a project proposal and application to the Heritage Council's HTI scheme. Submitted on 02/02/23. Capital project seeking €150,000 to develop heritage led regeneration at three medieval sites in Arklow.

Development Management

Planning Applications

Total valid applications received	To 31/01/22	To 31/01/23	% difference
Received (Valid)	58	64	9.38%

A total of 81 valid applications were received during January as follows:

Type of Development	31/01/23 Number Received
Individual Houses	13 (11 refer to a rural house)
Housing Developments*	04
Agricultural Structures	04
Commercial	07
Other Developments**	53
Total	81

* Large housing development

**Other Developments include, Porch/Sunroom, Extensions, finger sign post, Well, change of use, Hoarding, relocation of vehicular entrance, extend the appropriate period of permission, various amendments/modifications to previous planning permission, conversion, retention, boundary screen wall, attic conversion, reclamation of land, effluent treatment system & percolation area.

Decisions issued in respect of 73 applications in January,

Type of Development	Number of Decisions
Housing Developments	01
Individual Houses	04 (All refer to a rural house)
Other Developments	67
Other Developments Requiring EIA	01
Total	73

Decisions issued in January 2023, in comparison to the same period for 2022:

	31/01/2022	31/01/2023
Total Number of decisions issued	72	73
Total Number of decisions to grant	61	61
% Grant Rate	85%	83%
No of applications withdrawn		6 (4 Rural house)

Applications Lodged with An Bord Pleanala

Strategic Housing Development

ABP-313229-22 – Lands at Coolagad, Greystones (586 Units) Members Meeting 27/4, CE report forwarded 30/5 – currently with ABP Inspector

ABP-313314-22 – Lands at Fassaroe and Monastery, Bray (650 Units) Members Meeting 10/5, CE forwarded 07/06 – ABP unable to determine within the 16 weeks statutory timeframe - currently with ABP Inspector

ABP-313442-22 – Lands at the former Heiton Buckley site on Castle Street, Bray, (139 Units) Members Meeting 10/05, CE report forwarded 22/06 – awaiting decision from ABP

ABP-314686-22 Lands at former Bray Golf Club Lands, Off Ravenswell Road and Dublin Road, Bray, Co. Dublin and Co. Wicklow, (586 Units), Members meeting 4th October, CE report submitted 21/11 - currently with ABP Inspector

Strategic Infrastructure Development

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for approval under section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-310090-21- Proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, new 220kV GIS substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection and all associated ancillary works. In the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, in Co. Wicklow – approved with conditions 27/5

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended -ABP-309991-21 - Development and operation of an inert landfill facility to backfill the existing quarry to original ground level; progressive restoration of the backfilled quarry to longterm grassland/scrub habitat: establishment and operation of a construction and demolition waste recovery facility; installation and operation of a soil washing plant and all associated site works at Ballinclare and Carrigmore townlands, Kilbride, Co. Wicklow

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for proposed development primarily comprising of the provision of a new 110 KV substation with Gas Insulator Switchgear (GIS) technology and two 110kV underground transmission cables (connecting to existing 220kV overhead lines to the northwest of the proposed substation) along with associated and ancillary works at Bogland, Kish, Cooladangan, Ballintombay, Ballyroonaun and Ballynattin, Co. Wicklow – PA submission submitted to ABP 10/1/23

Substitute Consent

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for the remainder of the development on lands at Ashford, Co. Wicklow - ABP-312283-21 refers.

An Bord Pleanála has received an application for substitute consent for development that consists of a sand/gravel extraction pit including extraction areas, processing areas, stockpiling areas and ancillary works (circa 23.7 hectares). The development also includes a sand/gravel washing/screening plant & buildings comprising workshop/machinery shed, tools storage container, pump – house, 2 no. portable office buildings, 1 no. portable office/canteen/WC, Sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no. storage containers, sand processing plant electrical control room, 3 no.

storage containers, sand processing plant control cabin, bunded oil storage tanks, diesel generator container & electrical substation (all totalling circa 376sqm) The application is accompanied by a remedial EIAR and remedial NIS. Lands at Ballinabarney North & Bolagh Lower, Redcorss, Co. Wicklow.

E-Planning Project

The commencement of the roll out of the ePlanning system is scheduled in Wicklow for Q1 2023.

The project will include the following elements:

- Standardised naming/structure of all documentation in Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála.
- Web Portal through which all electronic planning applications and all correspondence regarding same would pass.
- All submissions can be made on-line for both planning application and part VIII applications.
- Fees will be paid online by means of card payment or EFT.
- Part VIII applications for all Local Authorities would be submitted and stored centrally.
- Referrals to all prescribed bodies and the receipt of their submissions would be electronic.
- Electronic transfer of planning files to An Bord Pleanála following an appeal.

The e-Planning system will provide a better service to the public. It will allow agents to build their applications before submission, and will reduce the printing, copying and scanning of documentation. It will also facilitate electronic interaction between Local Authorities, An Bord Pleanála and prescribed bodies.

Planning Enforcement

New Files	10
Advisory Letters	35
Warning Letters	6
Enforcement Notices	1
Legal Files	2
Closed	25

Vacant Sites

Municipal District	No. of Sites on Register
Arklow	7
Baltinglass	1
Bray	4
Greystones	3
Wicklow	7

02 sites on appeal to ABP – Section 9 (Notice of Entry)

03 sites on appeal to ABP - Section 18 (Demand Levy)

Derelict Sites

Municipal District	No sites on Register
Wicklow	1
Baltinglass	1

Short-Term Letting

Applications for registration received in January 2023	10
Complaints received in January 2023	0
Warning Letters issued in January 2023.	0
Enforcement Notices issued in January 2023	0
Legal proceedings in January 2023	0
Files under Investigation as of 31/01/23	52

The Government strategy 'Housing for All' announced regulations in this regard, with revised regulatory controls requiring the registration of short term and holiday lets with Failte Ireland. Responsibility for enforcement with the new registration requirements will lie with the Residential Tenancies Board, the Local Authority will continue to address illegal or unauthorised structures or changes of use.

New Planning and Development Bill

The draft Planning and Development Bill was approved by Government in December 2022 and published in draft form in January 2023, with a view to a new Act being adopted by mid-year.

The objective of the Bill is to bring greater clarity, consistency and certainty to how planning decisions are made. It is the intention of the Bill to make the planning system more coherent and user-friendly for the public and planning practitioners.

3. Environment

Waste Management

No. of Complaints Created	128
No. of Cases Closed, Resolved or Completed	255
No of Litter Fines Issued	8
No. of Waste Management Files Opened	3
No. of Warning Letters Issued	3
No of Abandoned Car Notices Issued	16
No. of Burning Applications Granted	1
No. of Temporary Signs Granted	0
No. of Notices Issued under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act	10
No. of Notices Issued under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act	1
No. of Notices Issued under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act	0
No. of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	0
No. of files prepared for Court and included in Court Lists	35
No. of Cases in Court under the Litter Pollution Act	6
No. of Cases in Court under the Waste Management Act	9
Income - Litter	€2,441.00
Income - Waste Management	€6,720.00

Court Cases

6 files were prepared for hearing in January 2023 under the Litter Pollution Acts. One case was withdrawn prior to hearing. In 3 cases, the defendants were found guilty of breaches of the Litter Pollution Act. Costs of €800 were awarded to the Council and a total of €1,050 was imposed by fine. In one case, the fine was paid before the court hearing and so the file was withdrawn by the council while one file was listed for mention.

A total of 9 cases were listed for court under the Waste Management Acts. 2 cases were adjourned for a later date, 1 case was withdrawn by the Council, 4 cases were listed for mention, One defendant pleaded guilty and was fined €250 with costs of €150 awarded to the council. One defendant was found guilty, a fine of €1,500 was imposed with costs of €350 awarded to the Council.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan 2023 – Securing Our Future

The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) is the second annual update to Ireland's Climate Action 2019. This plan is the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and following the

introduction, in 2022, of economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings. The latest revision of the plan was launched on 21st December 2022 and the supplementary Annex of Actions will be published Q1 2023.

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government.

This latest revision of the plan separates the Local Authorities from other Public Sector Bodies as they have such a key role in the delivery of both climate mitigation and adaptation. Local Authorities are required to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA CAP), specifying the adaptation and mitigation measures to be adopted by the LA. All LA CAPs are sure to be submitted to the DECC no later than March 2024 and they are to be updated every 5 years.

Wicklow Climate Action Plan

Wicklow County Council has commenced the Advance Planning Stage of the development of Wicklow's Climate Action Plan and KPMG have carried out a Baseline Emissions Inventory and a Climate Change Risk Assessment, both of which will form the basis for the LA CAP.

Mid-East Energy Unit

The Mid East Energy Unit was launched on 8th December 2022. The three local authorities of Wicklow, Meath, and Kildare County Councils came together to address their combined climate mitigation ambitions through the formation of this Energy Unit. The Mid East Energy Unit has been created under the SEAI Pathfinder Support programme to assist the three Councils with resource capability and capital funding support. The Energy Unit will progress and deliver agreed public sector energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in the region of the three Local Authorities. Wicklow County Council is the lead authority of the Unit and, in partnership with Kildare and Meath County Councils and the SEAI, will work with the support of CODEMA to deliver on the Pathfinder Programme over the next three years.

The recruitment process for the positions of the Regional Energy Manager and the Energy Officer is in progress.

Bicycle Parking

Work is underway to identify suitable locations to install bicycle parking at public buildings, car parks and amenities.

New posts for the Climate Action Team

The following posts have been advertised and the recruitment process is ongoing:

- Community Climate Action Officer
- Climate Action Coordinator
- Climate Action Officer
- Regional Energy Manager
- Energy Officer

The Biodiversity Officer and the Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer have been appointed.

EV Charge Point (EVCP) Infrastructure

Wicklow County Council is collaborating with Easy Go to build on the existing EVCP infrastructure in the County. Municipal District Engineers will work with Easy Go to identify suitable locations for installations.

The Green Team is working on a number of initiatives:

- Eco friendly cleaning products for our buildings
 - Weekly key information notices are being circulated to all staff as part of the Reduce Your Use Campaign
- Several members of the Green Team have completed Green Team training and are now working on the development of an action plan for the coming year.

Conservation Management Plans

Work is continuing on the development of Conservation Management Plans for Bray Head, Wicklow Head and Clermont Campus.

Environmental Awareness

Fourteen schools signed up to undertake composting training funded by Wicklow County Council with support from the Eastern Midlands regional waste management office. The training will be provided in five online sessions with two site visits and will include provision of some tools.

Work commenced with Bolt and Bray Municipal District on preparation of the roll out of an ebike scheme in the town of Bray. Identifying existing bike parking facilities and potential virtual parking spaces was started.

A sensor activated audio messaging campaign was used at several locations to remind people to keep bottle bank sites clean.

A series of three webinars to explore waste segregation, waste prevention and food waste is planned with funding from the Eastern Midlands regional waste management office. We will partner with Sustainable Travel Ireland based in Kilcoole for delivery of the webinars. One initiative which will be incorporated into the second webinar is the promotion of a deposit return scheme for coffee shops. Training will also be provided on waste segregation and waste prevention.

Wicklow is participating in the Rubbish Film festival with Create Schools based in Clermont. The schools participation is funded by Wicklow County Council. Five schools have registered for the project and have received training on making a short film from Createschool based in Clermont.

The deadline for submission of finished outfits in the Relove Fashion competition was in late January. Seventy one entries were received from across 11 local authorities with nine of them from Wicklow.

Preparations were made for the annual Tidy Towns, Estates and Sustainable Development Awards to be delivered in February.

Sustainable Energy Committees

Wicklow County Council is working with the Energy Team, Dunleer and several Wicklow SECs to identify householders looking to retrofit their homes and work with them guiding them through the process from start to finish. 28 households signed an expression of interest.

Greystones SEC is leading on a solar meitheal project which aims to group householders looking to install solar panels on their properties together as one project with the aim of getting a better price while also help to ensure all household get a quality installation. Several SECs are participating.

Claims for funding of the Blessington and Enniskerry energy master plans with grants to cover costs paid by SEAI have now been made with grant payments received.

Work is near completion on the Energy Map Plans, EMPs for High Park. In Arklow survey work is being undertaken.

A new application for an Energy Master Plan has been received from Carnew Community Care.

Newtownmountkenedy, Blessington, Glenmalure, Greystones, Enniskerry, Wicklow and Laragh have also completed Energy Master Plans.

Pollution Control

Pollution Response & Investigation

- 3 Water pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Water pollution complaints closed.
- 2 Noise pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 1 Noise pollution complaints closed.
- 0 Air pollution complaints received and investigated.
- 0 Air pollution complaints closed.

Private Water Supplies

- 1 Drinking Water Monitoring Plan for 120 Regulated Private Water Supplies prepared.

Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme

- 2 Lakes monitored for checking compliance with environmental quality standards

- 9 Rivers monitored involving 17 samples for compliance with environmental quality standards.

Water Framework Directive River Management Engagement and Investigations

- 3 Catchment engagement activities were undertaken.

Septic Tank Inspections - National Inspection Plan 2022-2026

- 1 Inspection Plan prepared
- 1 Inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems carried out and found non-compliant.

Well Grants

- 14 New Water Grant application received
- 4 New Well granted
- 12 New Pumps granted
- 16 Water Treatment/Disinfection Equipment Units granted
- 23 inspections in advance/completion of works

Petrol Vapour Recovery

- 1 Installation inspected.

Deco Paint Solvent Regulations

- 8 Dry cleaner Installations inspected.

Smokeless Coal Regulations

- 5 Wholesalers/distributors/retailers inspected.

Licensed Effluent Discharges to Waters/Sewer

- 15 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and deemed compliant.
- 3 licensed wastewater discharges to waters were monitored and 2 deemed non-compliant.

Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants – Ambient Monitoring

- 31 River samples taken upstream and downstream of wastewater discharges of municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Planning & Development

- 5 environmental reports on referred planning applications/consultations were completed concerning agricultural, commercial and forestry development.
- 2 environmental reports on compliance with planning permission conditions were completed.

Harbours and Ports

Wicklow Harbour – Cargo Movements

Month / Year	Ships	Single (Import or Export)	Double (Import & Export)	Transactions	Imports	Exports
Jan-23	7	4	3	10	7	3

Control of Dogs

Lambing Season

Wicklow County Council continues its collaborative partnership with the ISPCA, the IFA and Wicklow Uplands Council to ensure a proactive approach to Control of Dogs during lambing season. The Council will commence its media campaign in February, sending out a clear message to all dog owners to keep their dogs under effective control at all times.

Dog Licences

423 reminders were sent in January 2023.

A total of 475 licences were renewed in January, with 27 of these licences being lifetime licences. 220 of these licences were renewed on-line.

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Public Lighting

For your information below is a comparison on the number of outstanding faults. Please find attached the latest update on the outstanding public faults. The total number of faults currently outstanding stands at **466 – 3.06%** Please note that some of these faults are dependent on ESB attendance and co-operation.

Status	ARKLOW MD	BALTINGLASS MD	BRAY MD	GREYSTONES MD	WICKLOW MD	Grand Total
Access Issues (Attend)	1	1	10	1		13
Cable Fault (Attend)		1	2		2	5
ESB Required (Attended)	7	4	5	8	8	32
Knock Down (Attended)						0
Materials required	1	1				2
No Supply	1	1	1	3	2	8
On Hold		3	7		3	13
Submitted	55	55	130	93	60	393
TMR	5	7	3			15
Tree cutting required		1		1	3	5
Grand Total	70	74	158	106	78	486
Percentage Not Working	2.37%	3.08%	4.74%	3.81%	2.13%	3.20%

Date	23/01/2023	31/01/2023	07/02/2023	14/02/2023
Access Issues (Atten)	13	13	13	13
Cable Fault (Attend)	5	5	5	5
ESB Requ (Attended)	31	31	31	32
Knock Down (Attended)	0	0	0	0
Materials required	2	2	2	2
No Supply	8	8	8	8
On Hold	13	14	13	13
Submitted	406	397	378	393
TMR	12	12	15	15
Tree Cutting Req	6	4	5	5
TOTAL	496	486	470	486
PERCENTAGE NOT WORKING	3.30%	3.21%	3.11%	3.21%

Speed Limits

The special speed limit bye-laws were adopted at the February Council meeting with effective dates of 1st June for standard limits and 1st August for periodic limits. Signage requirements will be assessed and installation should occur prior to those dates.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) Update:

KLS ASD Joint venture are the works contractor for the PLEEP contract. Initial surveys of existing networks to begin in Jan 2023 once all insurances and bonds have been agreed by the PLEEP team.

Survey works of our network are programmed to start in July 2023. Installation works to begin Jan 2024 based on current programme. All dates subject to change.

Transportation Statistics

	Total 2021	Total 2022	Total 2023	December 2022	January 2023
Solicitors Queries	923	838	838	53	76
Road closure applications	53	78	78	7	3
Road Opening licences	1575	1414	1414	92	127
Abnormal Load applications	54	60	60	2	3

M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

The Option Selection report was published along with Bulletin #11 on the project website www.n11m11.ie on 14 December 2021. The publication followed the review of submissions received during public display in 2021. Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation was due to commence in Q1 2022. The scheme is currently suspended as no funding was provided to continue during 2022. Wicklow County Council project team are continuing to meet with the public and any interested parties.

M11N11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme

The BPIS seeks to achieve the early delivery of bus priority measures in advance of the main scheme between Loughlinstown Roundabout and Junction 9 (Glenview). The scheme is currently at the Options Selection phase (Phase 2 of TII’s Project Management Guidelines).

A non-statutory public display on the emerging preferred option took place in November 2022. Submissions were received up until 22nd December 2022.

The Option Assessment and appraisal process has identified that bus priority measures are preferred within the following sections of the corridor:

- Sub-Scheme A northbound and southbound – Loughlinstown Roundabout to Junction 6 (Bray / Fassaroe)
- Sub-Scheme C northbound only – Junction 8 (Kilmacanogue) to Junction 8 (Glenview)

The viability of delivering bus priority within Sub-Scheme B will be further examined to identify the optimum solution to meet the project objectives. This work is expected to build upon the analysis undertaken to date on the N11/M11 BPIS and J4 to J14 Schemes.

The Options Selection Report is being finalised following the completion of the public consultation and consideration of the submissions received. The final Options Selection Report is expected to be published in 2023

The public consultation information is available to view on the BPIS project website www.n11m11bpis.ie. This website will provide up to date information on the progress of the scheme.

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue

A noise assessment for the 7 no residential properties to the east of the new Parallel Service Road Scheme was carried out during April and May 2022. The draft report concluded that the change in junction layout does not change the noise levels at nearby properties when compared to the previous layout. However when road traffic speeds are increased to 100km/h along the N11, noise levels were elevated at the nearest noise sensitive locations by up to 4.5 dB Lden. This

would cause a potentially significant impact to the receptors along the N11. Following on from this report, feasible noise mitigation measures are now being investigated. The design and construction of noise mitigation measures is subject to funding being allocated.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Officer. A Design & Delivery Competition for new public sculpture is currently underway.

N81 Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Lower "N81 Four Studies"

Following completion of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Phase 1 feasibility studies (N81 Four Studies – Feasibility Report), Wicklow County Council will now look to progress the following two projects:

- N81 Whitestown Lower Project; and
- N81 Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Project.

Tenders have been received from Technical Advisors to undertake planning and design services under TII Project Management Guideline Phases 2 to 4 (inclusive). It is expected to complete the appointment of Technical Advisors and commence Phase 2 early in 2023.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

Resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove is expected to be carried out in 2023.

N81 Bus Stop at Hollywood

Following comments received from TII, further work is being undertaken to look at the proposal in more detail. The scope of the study has been extended to consider possible improvements for vulnerable road users at the junction. TII have provided funding for this further study.

Arklow Public Realm

Parade Ground Public Realm works have substantially been completed, snagging of the project is underway. Traffic on Main Street is now open to two-way traffic.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The route options continue to be revisited for a few sections of the proposed greenway route with updated ecological surveys just having been completed on those sections. Work continues in preparing documents and report to identify the emerging preferred route for the Greenway. An update of the status of the project was communicated to the public via the Council's web site and social media.

Baltinglass Town Centre Plan

Wicklow County Council has conducted the procurement process for a contractor and submitted the Tender Report and recommendation. Additional funding is required over and above the original allocation and reports have been prepared to aid those discussions. Award of contract is to be undertaken once approvals have been obtained.

Blessington Inner Relief Road

Currently detailed design along with the preparation of associated documents including the preparation of the CPO documentation is ongoing to allow the scheme to proceed to statutory approval. As the project may impact on the Poulaphuca SPA, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required to be prepared. Statutory approval will be sought from An Bord Pleanála.

Wicklow County Council Compulsory Purchase (Chapel Road Pedestrian and Cycle Infrastructure Improvement Scheme) No. 1 Order 2021

Consultants continue to proceed with the detailed design with the preparation of the tender documents.

Redford Junction

Work has commenced in the preparation of detailed design and the preparation of tender documents to allow the project to proceed to construction.

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season commenced on the 15th October 2022 and will continue until the end of April 2023. In January we experienced an extremely cold period of about 7 days where 2 runs a day were required; the rest of the month had temperature closer to normal or just above normal for this time of the year. Consequently salting of routes occurred on 12 nights in the last period with 137 individual routes salted.

SUMMARY OF SEASON TO DATE (Up to and including 29/01/2023)	
No. of Weeks Completed to date (out of 28 weeks)	15
No. of Days Completed	105
Total number of salting nights	36
Percentage no. of Nights when salting occurred	34.29%
Total number of routes salted	419
Total estimate tonnage used	1847.8

Wicklow Greystones Greenway

Wicklow County Council has just recently appointed consultants to this project; the inception meeting between the Council and the Consultants has taken place in January. The consultants have commenced work on the project and are arranging for detailed environmental surveys to be done which will feed into the development of the routes options study.

Blessington eGreenway

Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. No update has been received yet from An Bord Pleanála on a likely decision date. It is still anticipated that an oral hearing will be required by ABP before any decision is made.

Active Travel Updates

NTA 2023 Funding Allocation

On Wednesday 1st February, the Department of Transport announced the National Transport Authority funding allocations for Active Travel projects nationwide. In total, €290m has been allocated for walking and cycling infrastructure. Wicklow County Council were allocated €8.4 million for 2023, across 39 projects.

1. Bray Seafront Plaza
2. Bray DART Interchange
3. Active Travel Bridge (Wicklow Train Station to PAR)
4. Killarney Road Active Travel Route
5. Bray Bridge footbridges and tie ins
6. Bus Priority in Little Bray
7. Arklow Local Transport Plan
8. Greystones Local Transport Plan
9. Bray Main St. Bus Priority & Decongestion
10. Convent Avenue to Vevay Crescent Permeability Scheme
11. River Dargle Cycleway
12. Delgany Village to Mill Rd Active Travel Elements
13. Active Travel Pathfinder: Rocky Road (Access to Train Station)
14. Dublin Road to Wexford Road
15. Blessington Main St to Deerpark
16. Greystones Active Travel - Pathfinder Project
17. Cycle parking provisions in Wicklow
18. Safe Routes to School Programme - St. Kevin's NS
19. Safe Routes to School - St. John's National School
20. Safe Routes to School - SS Michael & Peter's Junior School
21. Safe Routes to School - Gaelscoil nagLCloch Liath
22. Safe Routes to School - Greystones Educate Together
23. Safe Routes to School - Kilmacanogue NS

24. Safe Routes to School - Scoil Nioclais Naofa
25. Safe Routes to School - Temple Carrig School
26. Arklow North Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
27. Ashford to New Developments (Urban) Footpath
28. Convent Road One Way Active Travel Scheme
29. Wicklow Rathnew Local Transport Plan
30. Kilcoole Rd Pedestrian & Cycle Improvements
31. Ballyguilemore Footpath
32. Arklow South Cycle & Pedestrian Improvements
33. Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme
34. Priory Road Footpath
35. Glenart Pedestrian Link
36. Active Travel - Kindlestown Road Cycle Scheme
37. Wicklow Train Station Park & Ride
38. Baltinglass Active Travel River Crossing Study
39. Wicklow County Council - Rapid Deployment Active Travel Measures

Recently Completed Projects

Footpath Improvements Deputy's Pass, Glenealy (Arklow MD)

This scheme provides 511m of upgraded footpaths with public lighting along the R-752 between Deputy's Pass and Glenealy Railway Bridge.

Projects Under Construction

Glenart pedestrian link (Arklow MD)

Pedestrian accessibility link improvements at the rear of the Woodlands housing development located between Lamberton and Glenart. The works will involve the construction of a pedestrian access ramp and the installation of public lighting along the scheme. Works began in January. The works are 40% complete and will be completed by the end of March.

Arklow North Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

The design of cycle and pedestrian facilities on the R-772 Dublin Road. The scheme involves construction of a footpath and segregated cycle facilities on the R-772 between the M11 Junction 11. Works are progressing well on site. The cycle lane is substantially completed on the West side of the road and is due to be completed by May.

Ashford to New Developments footpath (Wicklow MD)

Improve pedestrian facilities along the R-764 by widening the footpath and upgrading the public lighting. Works will begin with the next week to start placing stone on the wall next week and will take 6-8 weeks. Work will be complete by May.

Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme (Arklow MD)

Provision of 2.8km of segregated cycle track along the R-772 Wexford Road, Arklow between Knockmore Roundabout and M11 Junction 21. The scheme will also construct 1.4km approx. of pedestrian footpath. Initial works began in January 2023, with clearing of the verge. Works are now progressing with public lighting and drainage.

Bellevue Junction Improvement works in Delgany. (Greystones MD)

Upgrading of the junction of the R-762 and Bellevue Hill. The project will improve pedestrian accessibility and safety and enhance village centre aesthetics by widening and landscaping the paved pedestrian areas, upgrading public

transport facilities, undergrounding services and upgrading public lighting. Works commenced on site in mid-January and will take approximately 4 months to complete.

Footpath Improvements Valley Heights, Carnew (Baltinglass MD)

This scheme will provide 161m of upgraded footpaths (including public lighting) along the L-72274 between Valley Heights Housing Estate and Carnew National School. Works are currently ongoing.

Kilcoole Road Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements (Greystones MD)

Provision of 500m of new footpath and 500m of cycle track along the R-761. Works commenced on site this week by the in-NTA deliverables team and will be completed by end of April.

Public Consultations

Killincarrig Village Enhancement Scheme (Greystones MD)

Public consultations closed on Monday 30th January. Nine submissions were received, and a report is being prepared.

Arklow Transport Study (Arklow MD)

Public consultations on the transport study for the Arklow area closed on Monday 30th January. In total, 452 submissions were received. Reports are currently being prepared by consultants.

Safe Routes to Schools – St. Kevin’s National School Greystones and Hillside Estate (Greystones MD)

Consultations between residents of Hillside Estate in relation to the possibility of a new access point closed on Monday 23rd January. 83 submissions were received with a report being drafted on the feedback. Initial data shows that 62.7% of those who completed the survey do not want the access point to be constructed.

Parking Income

Parking Income by Municipal District	EURO
Bray Municipal District	65,563
Greystones Municipal District	22,660
Wicklow Municipal District	24,925
Arklow Municipal District	18,111
Parking Permits	11,820
Parking Fines	32,714
Wicklow County Council	175,793

Fire Service

Operational Fire Statistics January 2023

	Total stations	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Rathdrum	Arklow	Blessington	Dunlavin	Baitinglass	Carnew	Tinahely
Call sign		1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
Two Stations Mobilised											
Fire Domestic Persons Reported	2			1		1					
Fire Domestic	11	2	2				1	2	2	1	1
Fire Caravan	0										
Road Traffic Collision (RTC)	24	4	7	5	2	1	2	2	1		
Fire Vehicle (HGV /motorway)	0										
Hazardous Materials Incident	0										
Fire Industrial / Commercial	4	1	1							1	1
Fire Barn / Shed / Prefab	0										
One Station Mobilised											
Fire Alarm or CO ₂ Activation	23	4	8	3	2	3	1	1	1		
Fire Outdoor: Gorse / bushes	1		1								
Fire Chimney	13	2	1	1	1	3	1		1	2	1
Fire Small / bin / skip / bonfire	10	3	3	4							
Fire Vehicle	0										
Flooding	0										
Trees Down, Make Scene Safe	11	5	5	1							
Ambulance Assist / Medical Assist	10	3				1		1	5		
Garda Assist	2		1	1							
Electrical Incident	1			1							
Gas Leak	0										
River / Water Rescue	0										
Fire Oil / Petrol	0										
Explosion	0										

Entrapment / Rescue / Lift	1			1							
Oil Spill / Road Hazard	1					1					
Animal Rescue	0										
Lock In / Lock Out	1	1									
False Alarm – Good Intent	3		2	1							
Malicious False Alarm	1		1								
Mobilised into other County	3					2		1			
Times Stations mobilised	122	25	32	19	5	12	5	7	10	4	3

There were **103 incidents** attended during the month of January 2023. Due to laid down procedures to mobilise two stations to potentially serious incident types, individual Fire Stations were mobilised on a total of **122 occasions** including 3 mobilisations in other counties. On no occasion did an incident commander request additional resources over what was prescribed in the Pre-Determined Attendance.

Operational activity for the month of January 2023 **decreased by 5% (7 mobilisations) on the preceding month** December 2022: 129 mobilisations). While high winds on 11th / 12th January resulted in 11 fallen tree incidents, activity related to most incident types was slightly down on the preceding month e.g. zero vehicle fires (-3), ambulance assists (-5), incidents in other counties (-6). Over the month the following incident types represented 86% of overall activity: RTCs (20%), Alarm Activations (20%), Domestic Fires (11%), Chimney Fires (11%), malicious outdoor fires (8%), fallen trees (8%), Ambulance Assists (8%).

Operational activity for the month of January 2023 **was down 2% (3 mobilisations) on the equivalent month in 2021** (January 2022: 125 mobilisations). When compared year on year decreases occurred in mobilisations due to fires in building (down 7 mobilisations), Domestic Fires (down 5 mobilisations), malicious outdoor fires (down 5 mobilisations). There was an increase in RTCs (up 9 mobilisations), Trees down (up 10 mobilisations), Alarm Activations (up 6 mobilisations).

Sample Incidents (January 2023)

- 06/01/2023 Carnew and Tinahely crews attended a small fire in at an industrial site in Shillelagh.
- 07/01/2023 Blessington crew supported by units from Naas attended an RTC where a car had struck a tree on the N81 with one person trapped.
- 07/01/2023 Rathdrum and Dunlavin crews were mobilised to an RTC near Turlough Hill, single car roll-over.
- 09/01/2023 Wicklow crew rescued a climber in difficulties at the Devil's Glen.
- 10/01/2023 Bray and Greystones crews attended a 4-vehicle, RTC N11, Junction 8, northbound.
- 14/01/2023 Baltinglass and Dunlavin crews attended an RTC at Mullycagh on the N81.
- 26/01/2023 Greystones and Wicklow crews attended an RTC involving a car and a truck with one casualty trapped on N11 near Newtown Mountkennedy.
- 27/01/2023 Arklow and Wicklow Town crews attended an RTC involving a rolled over car with one person trapped on M11.

Incidents in County Kildare (1-incident):

- 18/01/2023 Dunlavin crew assisted Newbridge crew at an RTC near Kilcullen.

Incidents in County Wexford (2-incidents):

- 18/01/2023 Arklow crew attended an alarm activation in Inch.
- 27/01/2023 Arklow crew supported Gorey crew at an RTC at Camolin.

General

- Approval granted by LASNTG to hold a QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course (Recruits) in from 20th February to 10th March 2023.
- Consultation with firefighters in Baltinglass and Dunlavin took place in relation to detailed plans for the buildings. A visit was arranged to Meath Fire Service to see a similar fire station that was recently completed by the same design team.
- Working at Height Instructor training took place in Blessington for officers from all fire stations.
- CPR Instructor training took place in Bray for all stations to be able to maintain crew competence and deliver training to members of the public as required.

Fire Prevention Statistics January 2023

Application type	Received	Deemed Invalid	Requested additional information	Inspections	Recommended Grant
Fire Safety Certificates	12	1	16		6
Regularisation Certificates					
FSC as part of 7 Day Notice					
Disability Access Certificates	14	1	17		16

The Chief Fire Officer was forwarded correspondence in relation to 19 planning files during the month of January 2023.

The Chief Fire Officer made recommendations in relation to 14 of these files.

Licensing	Received	Inspected	Request further info	Letter / Licence Issued	No objection entered on Courts on-line Service
District				1	
Circuit				3	
Dangerous Substances Act		1		1	
Explosive Act				1	

Building Control

Commencement Notices for January 2023:

Commencement Notices Submitted: 41

- 11 Commencement Notices with Compliance Documents
- 19 Opt Out Declarations

- 4 Commencement Notices without Compliance Documents
- 7 Seven day Notice

Submission Statistics

- 46 % of Commencement Notices - Opt Out
- 78 % of Commencement Notices Revised Information required & requested = 32 No. Commencement Notices (CN) of which
 - 10 are Compliance Documentation (31%)
 - 13 are Opt Out (40%)
 - 3 Without Compliance Documentation (9%)
 - 6 Seven Day Notice (20%)
- 35 Valid Commencement Notices
- 141 new build residential Units
- Invalidated CNs for January = 2

• **Certificates of Completion processed in January 2023**

- 5 New No. of CCC submitted
- 4 Required Revised Information
- 4 No. Validated
- 0 No. Invalid
- 23 new residential units

Submission Statistics

- 4 No. Validated CCCs related to;
 - 3 No CCCs submitted in January 2023
 - 1 No CCCs submitted in December 2022

**BCA not notified on completion of opt out developments

Building Control continues to experience high volume of new submissions in January 2023. 141 new residential units in were notified to LA for Commencement. There was a reduction in Certificate of Compliance of Completion Certificates in January, due to the large volume of CCC submissions in November and December 2022. 4 newly completed residential units were submitted, assessed and validated in January.

Building Control continued with site inspections in January to identify non-compliances with Building Regs onsite and 4 No. Section 11 Compliance Requests were issued.

Revised Information requests were high in January for both Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, 78% of Commencement Notice submissions & 80% of Certificate of Compliance on Completion submissions required revised information. It should be further noted that some Opt Out Submissions are requiring 2 to 3 Revised information requests which results in submissions being assessed 2 to 3 times to ensure compliance prior to commencement.

Opt Out submissions are both extensions and single unit dwellings, generally from BCMS users who are unfamiliar with both BCMS and Building Regulations which leads to Building Control resources being directed to resolving both administration and technical issues with Opt Out Submissions. NBC&MSO Quarterly Newsletter dated September 2022 has requested LA's to focus resources on compliance with Building Regulations in Opt Out Submissions, Wicklow Building Control continue to perform rigorous assessment of submissions at commencement stage and onsite presence during constructions. These methods remain the best way to promote compliance with Building Regs.

Civil Defence

Callout & Assists

- Assisting Dublin Civil Defence with a Missing Person Search in Howth, EMILY Sonar and Drone support were deployed along with operational support team.
- Provide ongoing support to the HSE in Shoreline Leisure with the supply of a backup generator for Vaccine refrigerators.
-

Gardaí	Local Authority	Fire Service	HSE	Charity	Other
-	-	-	1	-	1

Training

- Training classes re commenced after the Christmas recess.
- Manual Handling Instructor – Recognition of prior learning – on going
- Officer meeting held to discuss training plan for the year
- Recertification for swift water instructors upcoming – Feb
- Recertification for first aid instructors upcoming – March
- EMT CPG 2021 Upskilling course ongoing – concludes Feb

Recruitment

- Information evening being held in early March with the intention to recruit 8 new volunteers

Equipment

- Whaly flood boat inspected by the MSO and approve for P2 licence.
- Audio visual upgrades to the training room have been installed.
- New lockers installed in the garage have provided safe storage for volunteers PPE and uniform.

Going Forward

- Recertification in courses expiring in Q1/Q2 ongoing.
- Regional exercise proposed to take place end of May. Host county Kildare
- Working with Wicklow Hospice with upcoming event in Avondale.
- Application to seek funding from the dormant accounts plan 2023 through the DOD
- Awards night proposed to be held in March, subject to venue and attendance.
- Preparations for Paddy's day parades ongoing

Organisational Development & Financial Matters

1. HR & Corporate Services

Recruitment

The following interviews were held in January 2023:

- Biodiversity Officer
- Temporary Project Liaison Officer
- I.S. Project Leader

Employee Numbers

	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022
Employee Numbers				
Managerial/Administrative	303	298	301	296
Professional/Technical	117	116	126	131
Outdoor	273	264	262	260
Temporary/Seasonal	44	69 (Increase due to Lifeguards)	37	33
Non DOHPLG	6	6	5	4
Total	743	753	731	724

Access to Information

Freedom of Information Requests

January 2023: 9	January 2022: 9
January – January 2023: 9	January – January 2022: 9

Ombudsman Requests

January 2023: 3	January 2022: 4
January – January 2023: 3	January – January 2022: 4

Press Releases

January 2023 – 11

Register of Electors

Franchise staff are currently participating on the LGERS (Local Government Electoral Registration Systems) working group with the LGMA, discussing issues that have arisen since the introduction of the CTR online application process & enquiry system and how procedures could be improved upon.

Customer Service Hub

Customer Service Innovation Hub			
2023 - January			
Communication	No.	Public Counters	Transactions
No. of Phone Calls	5,761	Motor Taxation	1,920
No. of Emails	1,509	Revenue Transactions (includes phone payments)	1,551
No. of Elected Members Emails	135	Social Housing Applications	38
CRM Cases	83		

2. I.C.T.

Blended Working

The IT Department continue to plan and support the additional business needs required by implementation of Blended Working:

- Blended model for return-to-work arrangements
- Remote Working Requirements for staff of Wicklow County Council
- Government Networks
- Phone Systems
- Call Conferencing
- Communications and awareness

System updates

Continuedly sourcing and implementing new processes and systems to improve end user experience while adhering to industry best practice.

IT Helpdesk

- The IT Helpdesk continues to streamline the workflow for the technical support team with an average of 33 tickets a day this month, providing assistance for both in-house and remote workers.
- Examination of system upgrades potential is continuing.

GIS & Systems Analysis

- Review of submissions for the RZLT has commenced and are currently being mapped on the RZLT interactive map.
- A Barn Owl spatial management application is currently in development to record sightings and the distribution of Barn Owls within the county
- Development of an online consultation hub has commenced. The Hub will be used to engage with the public on several topics from up-and-coming Local Area Plans.
- Migration of the primary County Development Plan datasets to Ireland's Open Data Portal has started.
- A data gathering exercise has begun for Wicklow's Climate Change Risk Assessment Report in conjunction with KPMG.

Customer Service Delivery

- Support for the Customer Service Innovation Hub is ongoing. The Customer Service project requires a high level of IT collaboration with both hardware and software elements integrated into the Hub.
- Work continues with the business process mapping and DPIA's are being carried out for each process as it arises.

- Avaya IP Office Phone System has been modified to integrate the Avaya Contact Centre Select Hardware Appliance and software. This has led to greater integration with call reporting systems and has improved customer service delivery.

eServices

Wicklow.ie – pageviews from June 1st, 2021, to May 31st, 2022, were 1,240,168 This is a decrease in unique pageviews of 17% compared the same period the previous year.

- Social media accounts – followers to date
 - o Facebook (Wicklow County Council) – 11,107 followers. This is an increase of 36 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Twitter (@WicklowCoCo) – 7703 followers. This is an increase of 21 followers or .3% on the previous month.
 - o Instagram (@WicklowCoCo) – 2843 followers. This is an increase of 35 followers or 1.25% on the previous month.
- The Online Consultation Hub on Wicklow.ie continues to feature in enhanced consultation campaigns. These have included–
 - o Redford Junction Part 8
 - o County Wicklow Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy
 - o Draft Customer Action Plan
- Social media campaigns have continued over the last month.
 - o #KeepWell
 - o #OutdoorsForEveryone

3. Finance

Revenue Account

Due to year-end adjustments that are currently being carried out as part of the 2022 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) process, we are not in a position to provide January 2023 expenditure figures in the normal format at this time. This situation will be regularised during the Quarter 1 period. The below table outlines the 2023 adopted budget by service division.

DRAFT REVENUE ACCOUNT			
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JANUARY 2023			
	Expenditure	Income	NET
	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Full Year Budget	Adopted Expenditure / (Income)
	€	€	€
Housing and Building	42,194,421	(46,575,078)	(4,380,657)
Road Transport & Safety	24,371,150	(16,722,878)	7,648,272
Water Services	5,649,853	(6,606,528)	(956,675)
Development Management	14,288,049	(8,574,520)	5,713,529
Environmental Services	13,559,916	(2,628,049)	10,931,867
Recreation and Amenity	8,984,450	(1,085,428)	7,899,022
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,106,287	(1,049,228)	1,057,059
Miscellaneous Services	9,728,355	(13,260,436)	(3,532,081)
Central Management Charges	21,746,281	(1,050,000)	20,696,281
Local Government Fund		(13,821,571)	(13,821,571)
Commercial Rates		(31,405,046)	(31,405,046)
	142,628,762	(142,778,762)	(150,000)

Cashflow/Overdraft

Wicklow County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 1st January 2023 to 31st January 2023.

Capital Account

CAPITAL ACCOUNT					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY SERVICE DIVISION AT 31ST JANUARY 2023					
	Opening Balance at 01/01/2023	Actual Expenditure	Actual Income	Transfers to/from Reserves	Closing Balance at 31/1/2023
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	22,174,496	14,118,694	(10,708,259)	0	25,584,931
Road Transport & Safety	(33,384,101)	1,377,519	(9,796)	0	(32,016,379)
Water Services	(11,210,826)	39,903	(5,933)	0	(11,176,855)
Development Management	(35,116,292)	258,488	(429,890)	0	(35,287,694)
Environmental Services	470,839	607,778	(201,919)	0	876,699
Recreation and Amenity	1,068,654	675,080	(11,891)	0	1,731,843
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(1,788,208)	35,359	0	30,913	(1,721,936)
Miscellaneous Services	(19,746,079)	(4,674,628)	0	(30,913)	(24,451,620)
	(77,531,518)	12,438,194	(11,367,688)	0	(76,461,012)

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loan Collections

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COLLECTIONS AT 31ST JANUARY 2023										
Income Collection Area	Opening Balance 01/01/2023	Accrued	Vacancy Property Adjustments	Write Offs	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Arrears 31/01/2023	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection
Rates										
Rents & Annuities	3,313,365	1,356,793	0	(4,842)	0	4,665,316	(1,401,668)	3,263,648	0	30%
Housing Loans										

NB The commercial rated figures will be populated after the 2023 rate demands are issued. The updated 2023 housing loan figures will be available in next month’s report. The rent collection percentage is below normal levels due to the carry forward of arrears at the start of the new financial year. This situation will be regularised over the course of the year.

General Municipal Allocation and Discretionary Fund 2023

The decision taken by Members at the LPT meeting on October 10th 2022 to maintain the LPT basic rate increase at 6% resulted in an additional €1,110,384 in the Revenue Budget for 2023. This money was ring-fenced for Discretionary Funding in the Municipal Districts. The total Municipal District’s General Municipal Allocation funding for 2023 is set out below:

Description	Arklow	Baltinglass	Bray	Greystones	Wicklow	Total
Town Twinning	6,000	6,000	10,000	6,000	6,000	34,000
Economic Development and Promotion	28,000	7,000	9,500	10,000	9,000	63,500
Christmas Festival	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	80,000
Festivals / Other	5,000	10,000	32,000	10,000	5,000	62,000
Civic Receptions	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Discretionary Funding	208,197	208,197	353,278	208,197	208,197	1,186,066
Total	269,197	243,197	426,778	246,197	250,197	1,435,566

Capital Investment Programme 2022-2022

The Capital Investment Programme 2022-2024 for Wicklow County Council details proposed capital expenditure projects over the next 3 year period, subject to available funding, was noted by the Members at the Council meeting of March 21st 2022. The table below outlines the proposed capital expenditure by programme group.

PROGRAMME GROUP	Expected Outlay				Proposed Funding				
	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL	Dev Charges ¹	Loan	Grant Aid ²	Other ³	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
HOUSING AND BUILDING	107,820,000	104,427,500	107,603,750	319,851,250	-	26,000,000	288,594,000	5,257,250	319,851,250
ROAD TRANSPORT & SAFETY	24,647,487	29,100,107	16,356,902	70,104,496	14,713,521	7,795,000	42,632,508	4,963,467	70,104,496
WATER SERVICES	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000	-	-	300,000	-	300,000
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT	6,550,000	10,178,000	5,962,000	22,690,000	2,897,800	2,000,000	9,627,200	8,165,000	22,690,000
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	2,920,000	10,850,000	28,550,000	42,320,000	-	-	32,060,000	10,260,000	42,320,000
RECREATION AND AMENITY	11,281,823	22,079,000	12,091,000	45,451,823	9,525,870	-	35,025,953	900,000	45,451,823
AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELFARE	5,150,000	16,900,000	30,682,946	52,732,946	4,585,368	-	41,647,210	6,500,368	52,732,946
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
OVERALL TOTAL	158,669,310	193,834,607	201,546,598	554,050,515	31,722,559	35,795,000	449,886,871	36,646,085	554,050,515

Capital Funded Projects

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
NRGF	Blessington Greenway	€15,000,000	€0
URDF	Arklow Historic Town Core	€3,134,684	€783,671
URDF	Wicklow Town - Library and Fitzwilliam Square	7,034,879	€2,407,470
URDF	Bray Public Transport Bridge	€8,600,000	€1,000,000
URDF	Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration	€9,520,000	€2,380,000
RRDF 2019	Blueprint for Baltinglass	€3,566,968	€891,742
RRDF 2020	Placemaking Newtownmountkennedy	€477,000	€119,250
REDF	Wicklow County Campus - Content Creation Hub	€3,500,000	€2,000,000
Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns	Abbey Grounds Wicklow Town	€1,000,000	€500,000
Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Scheme	Market Square Wicklow Town	€119,000	€19,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Greystones CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
Community CCTV Scheme	Blessington CCTV	€115,000	€75,000
WCC	Mill Road, Greystones Masterplan	€50,000	€50,000
ORIS 2018	Avonmore Way Link Bridge	€460,000	€91,000
ORIS 2018	Vartry Reservoir Walks & Car Park	€165,157	€33,031
ORIS 2018	St. Kevin's Way	€200,000	€40,000
ORIS 2018	The Spinc	€160,000	€30,000
ORIS 2019	Wicklow Way Infrastructure Enhancement	€25,000	€5,000
ORIS 2019	Baltinglass Road Cycle Trails	€11,000	€2,200
ORIS 2019	North Wicklow Trails Network Development	€190,700	€38,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Avondale Avonmore	€20,330	€2,033
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Trail Digitising	€19,600	€1,960
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Tinahely	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Stratford	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Long Distance Video	€21,400	€2,140
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Brockagh Mountain Access	€11,100	€1,110
ORIS Measure 1 2020	People Counters	€22,000	€2,200
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Sean Lenihan	€21,200	€2,120
ORIS Measure 1 2020	Glenmalure Bridge	€12,500	€1,250
ORIS Measure 3 2020	Bright light Blueway	€554,820	€55,482
Sports Capital Programme	Charlesland All Weather Pitch Refurbishment -	€52,500	€2,750
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Wicklow	€68,759	€20,628
Sports Capital Programme	Coral Arklow	€28,999	€8,700
Sports Capital Programme	Arklow Running Track	€62,434	€18,730
Sports Capital Programme	Dr. Ryan Park	€45,320	€13,596
LSSIS	Wicklow Swimming Pool	€1,646,052	€493,816
LSSIS	Charlesland Running Track	€411,674	€123,502
CLAR 2019	Rathcoyle NS	€55,556	€2,778
CLAR 2019	Knockananna	€46,000	€3,000
CLAR 2021	Knockananna community allotment	€10,830	€1,083
CLAR 2021	Askanagap	€55,557	€5,557
CLAR 2021	Knockananna	€27,514	€2,501
Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2022	Wicklow Libraries	€26,500	€2,650
	Sub-Total	€56,705,032	€11,312,089

Project Scheme	Project Name	Project Cost	Match Funding
T&V 2018	Blessington	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2018	Wicklow	€150,000	€30,000
T&V 2019	Dunlavin	€26,216	€2,623
T&V 2019	Coolkenno	€30,000	€3,000
T&V 2019	Aughrim	€119,500	€17,925
T&V 2019	Redcross	€100,000	€20,000
T&V 2019	Delgany	€37,000	€3,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Bundled	€28,000	€2,800
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Dunlavin	€4,950	€495
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Roundwood	€40,000	€4,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Ballinaclash	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Enniskerry	€44,000	€4,400
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Laragh	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Tinahely	€5,500	€550
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Baltinglass	€10,000	€1,000
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Arklow	€39,500	€3,950
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Wicklow	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Greystones	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Rathdrum	€27,000	€2,700
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Broadband Connection Points	€44,444	€4,444
T&V 2020 (Accelerated)	Kilcoole	20,000	2,000
T&V 2020 Main	Stratford	€200,000	€22,222
T&V 2020 Main	Avoca	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Enniskerry	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2020 Main	Annamoe	€100,000	€11,111
T&V 2021	Ballinaclash	€70,000	€7,000
T&V 2021	Donard	€29,000	€2,900
T&V 2021	Wicklow	€245,931	€24,593
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilmacanogue Nature Trail	€20,000	€2,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Lacken Mass Path	€18,000	€1,800
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Kilcoole Mass Path	€13,000	€1,300
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Avonmore Kayak Project	€16,500	€1,650
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Age Friendly Triobikes for older people	€23,160	€3,160
ORIS 2021 Measure 1	Keadeen Access	€13,500	€1,350
ORIS 2021 Project Development	Three Trout Route	€50,000	€5,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 3	The Sugarloaf Repair	€500,000	€50,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Jubilee Loop and Avonmore Way link	€180,000	€18,000
ORIS 2021 Measure 2	Cliff Walk Protection Scheme	€220,000	€22,000
ORIS 2022 M1	Avonmore Way	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Ballyboy Equestrian Trail	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Glen Turn Cliff Walk	€33,300	€3,600
ORIS 2022 M1	Miners Way	€28,000	€2,800
ORIS 2022 M1	Red Kite Loop	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	West Wicklow Access Points	€33,000	€3,300
ORIS 2022 M1	Wicklow Uplands	€33,000	€3,300
REISS (REDF)	Wicklow Naturally Food Incubation and Innovation Centre	€249,500	€49,900
	Total to date	€59,816,421	€11,670,872